

San Francisco's parks are "man-made." Originally only sand dunes marked the spots where today are gardens of rarest flowers, shrubs and giant trees. Even lakes, streams, waterfalls, hills, valleys and dales were worked out by man, to say nothing of the miles of walks, bridle paths and boulevards traversing the parks. Golden Gate Park is one of the world's most noted playgrounds. It comprises 1013 acres and is about 3 miles long and a half-mile wide, extending from Stanyan Street on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west and lies in the midst of San Francisco's choice residential districts.

In the park are many museums, monuments, an aviary, aquarium, music temple, stadium, tennis courts, baseball grounds, football grounds, trotting and pacing horse track, athletic field and running track paddocks, and children's play grounds. There are more than 25 miles of improved driveways in the park. Wild animals of many species are to be seen, while every bird and squirrel known to California roams or flies at will through the dense woods and shrubbery. At the western end of the park is to be seen the sloop "Gjoa," the only vessel that ever navigated the Northwest Passage, and which was given to San Francisco by its owner and explorer, Captain Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole also; the gift was accepted by San Francisco June 16, 1909. The ship was hauled upon the beach and is protected by a high iron fence.

### SOCIAL

San Francisco has more than 294 churches, representing many denominations. The congregations of the churches include people of many nationalities, such as English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Scandinavian, Russian and Chinese.

There are numerous societies, clubs, lodges, and fraternal groups beside the civic, historical, military, religious and

sporting groups. San Francisco contains many foreign colonies where the daily life and social events familiar to their native countries have been reestablished here.

The cosmopolitan character of San Francisco is well portrayed by the many interesting and diversified events which take place daily. The citizen or visitor may find many educational things of interest, such as lectures, concerts, readings, recitals, special exhibits of drawing, painting, sculpture, and other works of art.

There are two public art galleries and several semi-public galleries which offer exhibits and collections of national and international fame.

There is a main public library in the Civic Center with 21 branches and 6 depositories. This system has 520,000 volumes. There are 97 private and special libraries, including technical and institutional. There are also numerous circulating libraries.

The Municipal Auditorium, with a seating capacity of 11,000, contains a magnificent organ and is in use for a variety of events daily throughout the year. The Civic Opera House and the War Memorial Building provide a home for opera, the symphony orchestra, and a permanent war relics museum. San Francisco is the first city in the nation to have a civic opera house. It has a seating capacity of 3285.

### HEALTH

San Francisco is a clean city with a cool, bracing, equable all-year-round open climate. The Daily Mean Maximum Temperature is 62.6 degrees, and the Daily Mean Minimum Temperature is 50.2 degrees, with an average daily range of 12.2 degrees. A study of the air conditions in twenty-three prominent cities in the United States places San Francisco in the front rank, second only to Boston. The sun shone sixty-six out of every one hundred possible hours, according to the Weather Bureau Records, for a period of more than 20 years.

## GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION 1939

The Golden Gate International Exposition, designated by Congressional and Presidential action as America's official World's Fair on the Pacific Coast, will open February 18 and close December 2 of 1939. Its site is 400-acre Treasure Island, reclaimed for the purpose in the center of San Francisco Bay and described as the largest island ever built by man.

The Exposition will celebrate completion of the \$78,000,000 San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, longest and most costly bridge in the world; the \$35,000,000 Golden Gate Bridge, longest single span in the world; the aerial "bridging" of the Pacific Ocean by scheduled passenger and mail flights of the Clipper Ships, and the development of huge electrical horsepower by new hydro-electrical projects in the Western mountains, particularly Boulder, Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams.

The Treasure Island fill totals 20,000,000 cubic yards of black sand, bound by 287,000 tons of rock in a sea wall. This World's Fair site is 5520 feet long by 3400 feet wide, stands 13 feet above mean lower water, and is connected to Yerba Buena Island by a causeway 900 feet long and 110 feet wide. The U. S. Engineering Department carried out the reclamation, which was completed in 1937 under an authorized WPA appropriation of \$3,803,900 sponsored by the Exposition Company.

After the close of the 1939 World's Fair, Treasure Island will become an airport operated by the City and County of San Francisco for the benefit of cities surrounding the harbor, with a combined population approaching 2,000,000—perhaps the most centralized airport in the world. Direct highway connection with the Bay Bridge brings the Island within ten minutes, by motor car, of downtown San Francisco and central Oakland.

The Island's double function made possible a dual program of construction. Three buildings, completed in 1937, are permanent in concrete and steel as airport facilities at a total cost of \$2,000,000. Two hangars, each 287 by 335 feet and 76 feet high, will serve the Fair as exhibit palaces, and

a three-story concrete Air Terminal building will house administrative offices of the Exposition.

The remainder of the Exposition's \$18,600,000 construction schedule will be of timber, bolted together to facilitate removal from airport runways after the Fair. Core of the building program is a central court and 400-foot tower, from which will radiate plazas framed by six great blocks of exhibit palaces averaging 200 feet wide and ranging from 400 to 900 feet in length. More than \$10,000,000 worth of buildings were completed or under construction late in 1937.

Dual function is recognized also in highway construction. Three lanes between Island and Bay Bridge are a permanent installation to serve the airport; three additional lanes are built, where necessary, on timber trestlework to reduce excavation, and will be removed at the close of the Fair. An elaborate grade separation will handle traffic on and off the bridge by right turns only, eliminating the hazard of turns across traffic.

Exposition Highways are planned to handle 3,000 cars hourly between the bridge and a 12,000-car parking lot on the Island. Mass transportation will be accommodated by ferry boats plying from three slips on the San Francisco side of the Island and one on the Oakland shore. First World's Fair ever beyond the reach of pedestrian approach, these transit facilities will handle visitors at the peak rate of 65,000 hourly.

Architecture, illumination and landscaping will be combined to take complete advantage of the Exposition's spectacularly beautiful setting in the center of San Francisco Bay, and will create an effect that carries out the "Pageant of the Pacific" theme of the Fair. Basic architectural forms are borrowed from older civilizations around the Pacific, particularly the Mayan, Cambodian, Incan and Malayan, for a massed effect of stepped setbacks that will be enhanced by horticultural plantings along the baselines, and lighting effects to lend an atmosphere of spacious mystery to the skyline.

Approximately \$2,000,000 is budgeted for landscaping and horticulture, which will be lavishly colored and largely sub-